

State of North Carolina Office of the Governor

For Release: **IMMEDIATE** Contact: Sondra Artis Date: Dec. 5, 2006 Phone: 919/733-5612

GOVERNOR, FIRST LADY TO LIGHT STATE CHRISTMAS TREE

RALEIGH – Gov. Mike Easley and First Lady Mary Easley will participate in the annual Christmas Tree Lighting at <u>6 p.m. TODAY</u> (Dec. 5) on the west side of the Capitol grounds (off Salisbury Street).

The festivities begin at 5 p.m. with musical performances by the Saint Mary's Chorale and the Raleigh Concert Band. The Governor and First Lady will hang wreaths on the Capitol's west doors to begin the official tree lighting ceremony at 6:15 p.m.

Following the ceremony, the Junior Woman's Club of Raleigh will host a holiday festival featuring music and children's activities on the Capitol Square, Bicentennial Plaza and in the Museum of Natural Sciences and the Museum of History.

This event is sponsored by the Junior Woman's Club of Raleigh, the State Capitol Foundation, the Raleigh Garden Club, the N.C. Tree Growers Association and the N.C. Department of Administration's Division of Facility Management. The Raleigh Garden Club donated decorations for the Capitol.

Media Note: The tree lighting will occur at 6:27 p.m. Parking for TV trucks and limited camera riser space will be available. Please call 733-5612 for more information.

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